

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
MAY ET AL.)
) Examiner: S. RAMPURIA
Serial No. 10/790,479)
) Art Unit: 2617
Confirmation No. 9515)
) Attorney Docket No.
Filing Date: MARCH 1, 2004) 85002
)
For: COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM PROVIDING)
AUTOMATIC TEXT-TO-SPEECH)
CONVERSION FEATURES AND RELATED)
METHODS)
)

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.131

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Darrell May, hereby declare that:

1. I re-affirm that the information provided in the prior Declaration submitted on November 30, 2007 in the present application is true and correct.

2. The above-noted application was prepared along with a related application also naming myself and Alain Gagne as inventors (U.S. app. serial no. 10/790,641; attorney docket number ID-399 (80211)), and both applications were filed on March 1, 2004.

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3. I sent an email to attorney John Woodson (with a copy to co-inventor Alain Gagne) prior to January 26, 2004 that included details and examples of the present invention. A true and correct copy of this email (with date redacted) is attached hereto as Exhibit A. It should be noted that the Email lists in the subject field the docket number of the related application 10/790,641, although it pertains to the present invention as well.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

April 24th, 2008
Date

Darrell May
Darrell May

EXHIBIT A

John F. Woodson II

From: Darrell May [dmay@rim.net]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: John Woodson
Cc: Robert Liang; Alain Gagne
Subject: RE: Patent Application for Automatic Audio Delivery of Wireless Email (ID-399; Our File No. 80211)

I have thought about this and I am having difficulty in coming up with more distinguishing features that are not already described in the original submission.

All current systems I have researched so far have been user initiated. That is, it is the user who calls the service to obtain the emails and then uses the phone to control navigation through emails/faxes.

Example:
http://www.wireless-message.com/wireless_text_speech.htm

The system I have described is functionally similar to this, however it is pushed based rather than user pull based.

For example:
On the device I will have settings or rules that dictate that when I am in my car, all emails identified either by keywords, from/cc fields containing certain users etc. will be converted to voice on the server at that time and the server will call the device and play the email.

There are alot of things that need to be done to make this possible:

- 1) The device needs a UI to edit & create these filtering rules to determine what emails get converted and call the user.
- 2) The device needs to communicate with the server to let it know what it's phone number is. (i.e. the user can change SIM's so the server will need to know the device's number at all times.
- 3) The current Blackberry exchange server would need to talk to a new text to voice server.
- 4) This text to voice server would contain:
 - a) licensed 3rd party text to voice technology
 - b) hardware to call the users of the system
 - c) software to control a & b and communication with the BlackBerry Enterprise server
- 5) The device would need a profile system to enable this mode, and the server would need to be aware of this mode. For bluetooth enabled device's it would be nice to be able to automatically enter a device into this state.

Example: The user has a bluetooth enabled headset for their car. We could detect this headset and if the user chose to enable getting emails as voice when this occurs we would auto enable the "car" profile.

Here's an example of how I envisioned the system working.

An executive is awaiting an email regarding an important issue from the CEO of his company. He sets a device filter indicating that all emails from the CEO joe@somecompany.com will need to be notified via voice. He commutes 1 hour to work everyday. Before he starts his commute he sets the device to be in a "in car" profile. Or the device detects this automatically when he connects a (bluetooth) headset. 30 minutes into the commute he receives an email from the CEO. The Blackberry Enterprise Server checks the device filters and see's that this email is subject to voice conversion and sends the request to the email to voice server. The voice server looks up the phone number for the device, converts the email to a wav file. It then places a call to the device and plays the wav file.

The device can be set to have unique ring tones when an incoming call is from the email to voice server
The user can either have the device auto answer or use the headset to answer and listen to the email.

The best part of the system is that the user had to do nothing to listen to the email. It happens all automatically once they have their settings set up.

Other than these ideas I don't know what else I can find to differentiate this from the existing solutions.

If anyone has any comments/questions please let me know.

Sorry for the delay on this,

Darrell